GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5854
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2002
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS FOR BLINDS
RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the existing provision for educating the blind and handicapped students in the country;

(b) whether the Government are conducting any country-wide survey to know the number of such students;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the number of residential schools for blind students in the country is inadequate; and

(e) if so, the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) A statutory obligation has been cast on the Central Government, State Governments and Local authorities, under Chapter V, Sections 26-31, of `The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995` for ensuring education of children with disabilities including the Visually Impaired.

(b) & (c) No country wide survey has been conducted to know the number of visually impaired students.

(d) & (e) Under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities during the year 2001-2002 around 90 voluntary organizations working for the visually impaired were given grant in aid assistance for taking up projects for the visually impaired including residential schools. State Governments, Local Authorities and private institutions are also providing facilities including residential schools for education of Visually impaired. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment continues to encourage voluntary action for expansion of services in this area.